

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



November 13, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Programs that prepare teachers have two essential goals. First, they serve as conduits for candidates seeking to enter our profession and industry. They are recruiters into an industry badly in need of qualified individuals. At the same time, these programs teach candidates the foundation of teaching. They serve as a gateway to acquiring the skills needed to serve students' interests. In the ideal scenario, preparation programs both provide a steady pipeline of talent into the classroom and do it in a manner that assures a baseline level of teaching skill. Ideally, there is no trade-off between these two goals.

In Louisiana, there are [two pathways to teaching](#): preparation as an undergraduate and preparation after having received the baccalaureate degree. In the case of undergraduates, candidates receive course credit for a full-year residency as a college senior; they are not yet school system employees. But for aspiring teachers who enter the teaching profession through the post-baccalaureate route, there is the need to be paid a full salary, even as the candidate has not participated in a residency. Very often this means a person who has never taught before is leading a classroom as the teacher of record. The goal of providing a badly needed teacher and the goal of providing a fully prepared teacher may conflict in this case.

This year, the Department is supporting a pilot community of rural school systems trying to resolve this conflict. Recognizing that they will continue to recruit teachers from post-baccalaureate ranks, these school systems are providing extensive mentoring by expert teachers at each school where there are teachers prepared through post-baccalaureate pathways. While models look different from school to school and school system to school system, each model allows for a co-teaching experience for first-year, post-baccalaureate teachers, making sure that students benefit from the support they're provided and that no first-year teacher has to go it alone.

This month, the Department will release a report highlighting important lessons learned from these pilots thus far, including the impact of increasing the amount of mentoring or co-teaching included in post-baccalaureate programs. I hope the report provides a basis for ongoing discussion of this important issue.

We need more teachers. We also need fully prepared teachers. Our schools are proving that these ideas do not have to be in tension with one another. Let's learn from what they have to teach us.

Next week, in light of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will not be sending a newsletter. I hope you'll get time with family over the holiday and that you will be able to put work to the side for a moment.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [November Supervisor Collaborations \(Lake Charles\)](#): November 14 at 8:00 a.m.
- [LEAP Connect ELA Constructed-Response Sample, Grades 6-8 and 11 Webinar](#): November 14 at 3:30 p.m.
- [November Supervisor Collaborations \(Harvey\)](#): November 15 at 7:30 a.m.
- [Data Coordinator Office Hours](#): November 15 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar](#): November 16 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Super App Follow-Up Webinar](#): November 27 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): **moved to November 27 at 1:00 p.m.**

Important Deadlines

- [2019 Student of the Year Information: District/LEA Information Form](#) deadline: November 26

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the Department will not issue a newsletter next Tuesday, November 20.

School System Support

New: Super App Follow-Up Webinar

The Department will host a follow-up Super App training webinar on November 27 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Please note that [pre-registration](#) is required. To ensure there will be enough slots for all interested staff, the Department encourages that multiple people view the webinar from a single location if possible.

For more information, please contact melanie.mayeux@la.gov.

New: 2019 Student of the Year Information

Please share with Student of the Year District Coordinators and all principals.

Each year, the Department recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of our students through the Louisiana Student of the Year Awards Program.

The Department has released the application for the 2019 Student of the Year program and strongly encourages all LEAs to play an active role in celebrating the exceptional students in your area. To participate, please review the revised [written guidelines](#) for the program and current [logistics memo](#).

To ensure your LEA is represented, please complete the following steps:

1. Complete the [District/LEA Information Form](#) and email it to Marian Johnson **by November 26**. This information will enable the Department to determine the regional sites and to communicate directly with coordinators on upcoming events and activities related to this program.
2. Make the [logistics memo](#) available to the parents of students eligible to participate in the program.

Please read the revised [Student of the Year Guidelines](#) concerning charter school submissions and scoring. Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Super App Office Hours for November Collaboration Attendees

The Department will begin offering office hours for Super App on November 19 for school system leaders that attend the November Collaborations.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 19 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/594569803>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID:** 594569803

School systems leaders should first attend one of the November Collaborations before participating in office hours. The Department will hold recurring Super App office hours every Monday from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Please contact doegrantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: November Supervisor Collaborations

The November Supervisor Collaborations will focus on providing resources and training for the new School System Planning Process for 2019-2020 and the launch of the Super App. This is an all-day event for Supervisors only. The originally scheduled Principal Collaborations will be held in January.

Attendees should include those who supervise: academic content, assessment, high schools, CTE, workforce development, ECE, diverse student populations (including SPED), federal grant programs, and budgeting and finance.

Date	Time	City	Address
November 14	8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Lake Charles	Calcasieu Parish Assessment Building 1618 Mill Street Lake Charles, LA 70601
November 15	7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Harvey	Jefferson Parish School Board Building 501 Manhattan Blvd. Harvey, LA 70058

During several of the sessions, we will be referencing the new [School System Planning Guide](#) and the [Super App Workbook](#). Hard copies will not be provided. If your team would like a hard copy, please ensure that you have printed these materials in advance and bring them with you.

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions regarding these events.

Assessment and Accountability

New: 2017-2018 SPS Appeals and Waivers

The [2017-2018 SPS Appeal/Waiver Form](#) are available in the [Accountability Library](#) and must be completed by December 4 for 2018 SPS requests. Please remember that appeals and waivers cannot be based on data that could have been corrected during the data certification process.

Send questions to jennifer.baird@la.gov.

New: LEAP 360 | Planning for 2019-2020

LEAP 360 will be provided by the Department at no cost to school systems for the 2019-2020 school year. School systems that use LEAP 360 for the 2019-2020 school year will not be required to pay an annual fee; however, they will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to protect the item and test content.

More information, including the MOU and system release dates for the upcoming school year, will be shared in January.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: For District Testing Coordinators

General

- The [2018-2019 Assessment Month-by-Month Checklist](#) is located in the [Assessment Library](#). The checklist identifies key dates and deadlines for statewide assessment programs and accountability processes for next school year; provides action steps to ensure readiness for administering statewide assessments; and recommends resources for school system and school staff.
- All changes to district test coordinators (DTCs) or accountability contacts must be submitted to the Department using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update form](#) found in the [Assessment Library](#).

LEAP 360

- [A District's Guide to LEAP 360](#) and the [eDIRECT Mini Trainings and One Pagers](#) have been updated to include training materials for Interactive Reporting and Student Groups.
- The new LEAP 360 Move Report provides a list of students who have entered or exited a school/school system. This report will be updated every Friday in [eDIRECT](#). The Move Report is posted in [eDIRECT](#) under Report Delivery, View Reports, Diagnostic/Interim 18-19, then Move Report.

LEAP 2025

- The [Practice Test Quick Start Guide](#) has been updated to include scoring and reporting improvements for the 2018-2019 school year.

LEAP Connect

- The [LEAP Connect Administrator Training](#) is posted to the [Assessment Library](#). This training provides an overview of the assessment design, details about accommodations and built-in supports, and detailed explanations of administrative documents.
- There will be a [LEAP Connect ELA Constructed Response Webinar](#) for teachers on November 14 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. for grades 6-8 and 11.

ELPT

- ELPT Student Management will open on November 26 in TIDE. TIDE can be accessed through the [EL Portal](#) under the [ELPT tab](#). Reference the TIDE User Guide posted in the ELPT tab under Resources for directions on viewing/editing and adding students and accommodations.

ACT and WorkKeys

- [PANext](#) is open for managing participation and shipping. No students will be in the system until late November. Schools must indicate participation in Spring ACT testing and choose material delivery dates. Please be mindful of school system holidays when choosing dates.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

- The next Monthly Assessment and Accountability Call will be November 27 at 1:00 p.m.
 - **Webinar Date and Time:** November 27 at 1:00 p.m.
 - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
 - **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
 - **Meeting ID#:** 393463942

The [Office Hours Questions and Answers](#) document is posted in the [Assessment Library](#). Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

New: 2019 Behavior Intervention Summit

Please share with school system administrators, school principals, child welfare and attendance staff, counselors, and behavioral interventionists.

Registration for the 2019 Behavioral Intervention Summit is now open until January 2, 2019. The summit will be held at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge on January 30, 2019. Sessions at the convention will provide school systems with important information related to building effective multi-tier systems of support utilizing evidence based behavioral interventions.

Sessions include:

- Evidence-Based Behavioral Intervention
- Social Emotional Learning Curriculum and Strategies
- Implementing a Multi-Tier System of Support
- Trauma Informed Approaches
- Classroom Management
- Cross Cultural Competencies
- Alternative Education Redesign
- Data-Based Decision Making in Behavioral Intervention
- Bolstering School Climate and Culture
- Implementation Fidelity Measures for Effective Behavioral Interventions

A list of hotels offering a discounted rate is [available](#).

Please contact behaviorintervention@la.gov with questions.

New: New Artist Scholarship

Please share with school system administrators, school principals, school counselors, and teachers.

Renowned New Orleans born artist Gustave Blache III is offering a \$25,000 per year scholarship opportunity for aspiring African American students to attend the School of Visual Arts (SVA) in New York City. The scholarship targets high school seniors seeking a Bachelor of Fine Arts (4-years), or artists wanting to pursue a Master of Fine Arts degree (2-years).

The scholarships, offered in a collaborative effort of the LA Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) and the School of Visual Arts, are described on the LEH [website](#). Applications and portfolios are due on **December 14**, with notification of awards expected on January 11, 2019.

Please contact karen.denby@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2019 Jump Start Convention

Please share with CTE Supervisors, school system administrators, high school principals, professional counselors, and Jump Start Regional team members.

Registration for the 2019 Jump Start Convention is now open until December 31. The convention will be held at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge on January 29, 2019. Sessions at the

convention will provide school systems with important information related to building stronger Jump Start pathways. Sessions include:

- Accessing Post-secondary Opportunities: Financial Aid, TOPS, Dual Enrollment, and Advanced Placement
- Career Readiness: Quest For Success and Other Course Options
- CTE Leadership Academy
- Health Sciences Updates
- Instructor Training and the Value of Externships
- Jump Start 2.0
- Jump Start Summers/Jump Start After Hours
- Using SIS/STS to Track Credentials

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Financial Aid Event Planning

Please share with staff responsible for financial aid planning at your school.

The [FAFSA](#) for the 2019-2020 school year is open for students. If you already have an event planned, please email ldefinancialaid@la.gov to have it added to the [Regional Calendar of Events](#) on the [LDOE Financial Aid web page](#).

Reminder: The [Louisiana Department of Education \(LDOE\)](#), the [Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance \(LOSFA\)](#), and the [Louisiana Education Loan Authority \(LELA\)](#) are available to lend support.

Please email any or all of these offices to discuss your site's needs or to get assistance with a scheduled event: LDOE: ldefinancialaid@la.gov; LOSFA: breanna.paul@la.gov; LELA: carmichael@lpfa.com.

Educator Preparation

New: Data Validation for 2018-2019 Educator Workforce Reporting

In preparation for the 2018-2019 educator workforce reporting in the [secure portal](#), as well as the 2017-2018 teacher attendance data reported in the [Louisiana School Finder](#), school systems will undergo a data validation process to review and validate teacher tenure status, teacher certification status, and teacher attendance data.

To support school systems during the data validation period in November, the Department will provide school systems with the following via their FTP:

- A teacher level file with **tenure status**, compass results, and employment information for 2018-2019 educators ([secure portal](#)).
- A preliminary appendix that shows classes taught by teachers and their **certification status** (appropriately certified, out-of-field, or uncertified) for 2018-2019 educators ([secure portal](#)). (Note: This is the same format used in previous releases of the educator workforce data)
- A preliminary **attendance** file with school and school system level attendance rates and attendance by categories of days missed for 2017-2018 educators ([secure portal](#) and [school finder](#)). Teacher attendance will be updated in Louisiana School Finder in spring 2019.

These files will be dropped the week of November 19. School systems should access and review these files closely to ensure information is entered correctly so that workforce data is reported accurately in the Secure Portal and School Finder. The Department will provide a supplemental guidance document to help school systems understand how to review and validate each file. School systems will receive three rounds of data to review and validate. **The final set of data files will be provided the week of December 17.**

For more information about the educator workforce reporting, please email believeandprepare@la.gov.
For more information about entering or reviewing teacher information in PEP, please email michael.zanovec@la.gov.

Special Education

New: 2017-2018 Significant Disproportionality Results to Be Released

Each year, federal regulations require the Department to analyze the likelihood that students with disabilities from one race or ethnicity will be subject to a certain outcome (over identification, restrictive placement, or exclusionary discipline) relative to students with disabilities from all other races and ethnicities, in each school system across the state.

School systems can access their [significant disproportionality results 2017-2018](#) **this Friday, November 16**. If a school system is identified as significantly disproportionate, they must set aside 15 percent of their IDEA Part B funding for coordinated early intervening services (CEIS) in Super App for the 2018-2019 school year. Additional information about CEIS is [available](#).

For more information, please email specialeducation@la.gov.

Reminder: Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar

The Department will host the **monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education on November 16 at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 16 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/263860307>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 263860307

For more information, please email specialeducation@la.gov.

Data

New: 2017-2018 EOY Dropout Correction

Please share with data coordinators and data managers.

The 2017-2018 EOY Dropout Correction collection is open for reviewing and making final online corrections for students identified as potential dropouts for the 2017-2018 school year. Failure to properly update student exits may result in dropouts being erroneously assigned to your school system. The reporting deadline is **December 3**.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Data Coordinator Office Hours

Please share with data coordinators and data managers.

The Department will hold office hours for data managers on November 15 at 1:00 p.m. The data management team will be on hand to answer questions regarding the Oct 1 CLASS collection for SPC, SIS, CUR, PEP and Dropout reporting.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 15 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/711178912>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 711178912

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Oct 1 CLASS Collection

Please share with data coordinators and data managers.

The Oct 1 CLASS collection is open for submitting data to SPC, CUR, SIS and PEP. The reporting deadline is **December 7**. This collection is important for CTE/CDF funding, class size reporting, workforce and VAM. Please refer to the [2018-2019 Benchmark Calendar](#) for other important information regarding data submissions.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Policy

Reminder: Music Curriculum Contest for Teachers

[64 Parishes](#), a project of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and First Lady Donna Edwards, has partnered to sponsor the Louisiana Musical Legends Contest for K-12 teachers to share ideas for how the study of Louisiana musical legends can be incorporated into classroom curricula. The project is made possible by gift from Dorothy Hanna, a music teacher in Vinton for more than thirty years whose generous gifts have been used to create “Aunt Dorothy’s Teacher Toolkit.”

In addition to a \$1,000 prize, the winning teacher from each region will be invited to help develop a short educational video and lesson plan to be hosted on the 64 Parishes [website](#). Applications and additional information are [available](#).

Please contact erin.bendily@la.gov with questions.